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Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate
Tuesday, November 11, 2008
Meeting held in Bryant Hall 209

Senators in Attendance: Deborah Barker, Robert Barnard, Mark Bing, Steve Brewer, Allison Burkette, Joe Turner Cantu, Yixin Chen, Ben Cooper, Lucien Cremaldi, Melissa Dennis, Charles Eagles, Allison Ford-Wade, Judy Greenwood, Mary Hayes, Erin Holmes, Brad Jones, Jason Klodt, P.T. Krantz, Joel Kuszmaul, Elise Lake, Laurel Lambert, John Lobur, Rebecca Lowe, Soumyajit Majumdar, Tyrus McCarty, Carmen Manning Miller, Jessica Minihan, Chris Mullen, Tim Nordstrom, Cesar Rego, Jason Ritchie, Angela Rutherford, Jesse Scott, Zia Shariat-Madar, Ken Sufka, Durant Thompson, Doug Vorhies, Mark Walker, Jay Watson, Thea Williams-Black, Jordan Zjawiony

Senators absent with prior notification: Elliot Hutchcraft, Debra Moore-Shannon, Bill Chappell, John Williamson, Ricky Burkhead

Senators absent without notification: Karl Wang, John Neff, Donna Davis, Melissa Bounds, George Dor

- Meeting opened by Chair Ken Sufka at 7:00 p.m.
- First order of business: Approve October minutes
 - Motioned & seconded; approved with no abstentions
- Second order of business: Chancellor Khayat addressed the senate
 - Also attending were Jim Morrison, Director of Strategic Planning; Noel Wilkin, Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Larry Sparks, Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance; Gloria Kellum, Vice Chancellor for University Relations
 - Chancellor Khayat's preliminary comments
 - The Chancellor is unsettled by the current economic news, however there is no reason to believe that the economic woes will affect faculty jobs
 - If the university can increase or maintain enrollment, the UM will continue to prosper; thus the Chancellor called on faculty to help retain students
 - The strategic plan is to grow 2% per year
 - The Chancellor's goal is for UM to continue to be and to be perceived as a great American public university, as reflected in the positive press coverage of the presidential debate
 - Goals yet to be met
 - Faculty salaries increasing to the midpoint of the Southern University Group
 - Increasing enrollment, the number graduate students, & the number of science courses offered
 - Donors have contributed \$800 million to UM in the last 14 years
 - The Chancellor responded to questions from the senate

- Question regarding the funding formula, which has not increased despite UM's growth
 - Less productive universities have objected to increasing funding for UM
 - By 2014, equity funding on a per student basis will be in place
 - The current formula has cost UM \$85 million in the last few years
- Question regarding the loss of Thomas Meredith
 - The Chancellor works closely with board members and is asking them to justify \$2000 more per student at Delta State than at UM
- Question regarding how much the governor may decide to reduce the budget
 - The solution is to maintain or increase enrollment
- Question regarding scarce classroom space
 - Lamar Hall will become a classroom building
 - A new science building is needed and would cost \$30 million
- Senator Richie expressed concerns that tents are erected in the grove on football Fridays prior to the official 6 pm set up time, which interrupts UM's academic mission
- Senator Cremaldi asked about Web based classes
 - Noel Wilkin responded that distance enrollments count toward the overall enrollment for funding from IHL
 - UM has the lowest distance enrollment in the SUNG
 - It is best to decide within each discipline whether to implement online courses, to ensure that courses are of high quality, & that they are in demand
 - Chancellor Khayat remarked that the initiative must come from the faculty to meet changing student demographics
- Question regarding funding for graduate students
 - The per hour allocation is higher for the sciences than the humanities
 - Allocation is, in ascending order, lower level undergraduate, upper level undergraduate, MA, & PhD
 - Student to faculty ratios are also considered
 - 20% of the UM budget comes from the state
- Question regarding the key issues in retention
 - Developing relationships, in which students are members of smaller communities within the larger community (campus organizations, Croft, Honors College, fraternities & sororities)
 - Jim Morrison remarked that the cohort program aims to create an identity within a group, which has proven to increase retention across the country

- Question regarding how much influence the faculty has in the decision to raise tuition
 - IHL is in a conservative mood; a 3% increase is palatable, a higher increase would be difficult
 - A non-resident tuition increase would be easier to implement
 - The board of Trustees decides
 - Question regarding the increase in out-of-state enrollments
 - 32-34% are non-residents
 - Faculty members will be asked to make calls and write letters to recruit students
 - Question regarding the status of the plus/minus grading scale
 - Morris Stocks will address the Senate next month and can field this question
 - Question regarding strategic planning for physical facilities
 - There is a commitment to landscaping and architecture adhering to a classical design
 - There is no conflict with the campus greening initiative
 - Question regarding the minutes of strategic planning meetings and how faculty may stay informed
 - Jim Morrison promised complete transparency of the strategic planning process
 - The SACS confirmation report is online and includes extensive information on planning
 - Question about the quality of instruction when instructors are teaching juniors & seniors at branch campuses and the lack of libraries at said campuses
 - Chancellor Khayat agrees that it is a legitimate concern and will be addressed by Morris Stocks
 - The administration is working to install tenure track faculty at branch campuses and to check the academic qualifications of instructors
 - Question regarding recruitment and the possibility of waiving non-resident tuition for students from contiguous states
 - Chancellor Khayat disapproves of such a plan as UM is attracting many out of state students
- Third order of business: Administrative Searches
 - Provost search: the job advertisement will be posted in the November 21st issue of the “Chronicle of Higher Education” and EdOnline.com
 - Email updates are keeping faculty apprised of the search’s progress
 - Vice Chancellor for Development search: Mark Wilder is chairing this search
 - Business Dean Search: An internal search, one candidate (the incumbent) has applied for the position

- Senators expressed concerns about the trend of naming an interim dean and then conducting a search
- Fourth Order of business: Morris Stocks is invited to address the Senate's December meeting
 - Stocks will address academic issues such as distance learning
 - Maurice Efftink will provide updates on QEP & SACS.
 - Senator Burkette reported on faculty feedback on the QEP and plans to deliver writing instruction
 - The "Write Here, Write Now" program will address faculty development and offer more accessible tutoring
- Fifth order of business: The updated Senate website
 - Senator Klodt reported on the redesign of the website, which will go live on Thursday, November 20, 2008
- Sixth order of business: The smoking policy survey
 - Senator Greenwood is representing the senate
 - The survey will develop recommendations and not policies
- Seventh order of business: Senator Mullen updated the senate on research disaster planning
 - An IT person will take on the project to protect data, hardware, & software
 - Data protection may be mandatory due to contracts in federal funding
 - A survey will be circulated at the Senate's December or January meeting
- Eighth order of business: Thanksgiving Adopt-A-Basket update
 - Faculty may drop off donations by November 19 in the Union Ballroom
 - Adopt-A-Basket plans to deliver 400 boxes of food to the needy
- Ninth order of business: Updates on Senate committee actions
 - Senator Nordstrom reported on the Finance committee.
 - The committee is working on information on the SUG salary average and will provide breakdowns by faculty rank
 - A 2-4% budget cut will affect non-academic programs, so no departments will be affected
- Tenth order of business: Items from the floor
 - The United Way will distribute pink donation envelopes to faculty; \$5 per payment would be of great benefit local charities
 - Senator Lobur expressed concerns about the lack of progress in implementing the plus/minus grading scale
 - ASB opposed the scale out fear that it might negatively affect students' grade point averages
 - Chair Sufka will research if the senate has issued a resolution
 - Chair Sufka will investigate how the administration has reacted to the Senate's resolutions over the past year
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm